



The Hoosier Youth Story

Facts About the Statue

First statue showing Lincoln as a youth of 21

Height of figure, 12 feet, 4 inches

Total height, with pedestal and plinth, 24 feet

Material, bronze

Weight, 4½ tons

Weight, including base and plinth, 79 tons

Sculptor, Paul Manship

Sponsor, Lincoln National Life Foundation, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Medallions of bronze represent four of Lincoln's chief characteristics—patriotism, justice, fortitude and charity

Four years spent on research and modeling

Indiana site selected because Lincoln spent 14 years
of his youth there.



Abraham Lincoln — 16th President of the United States, “The Great Emancipator,” writer of The Gettysburg Address, statesman, leader, dispenser of homey wisdom and, finally, American martyr — grew up in Indiana. When Lincoln came to Indiana from Kentucky he was only seven years old; when he drove his father’s covered wagon to Illinois, he was a young man of twenty-one, six feet four inches tall. In Indiana Lincoln developed the qualities which made him great. Justice. Fortitude. Charity. Patriotism. Indiana bred The Railsplitter, a youth captivated by a book’s magic, a lover of animals.

In 1928 America claimed 35 or more Lincoln memorials. None portrayed Lincoln in his youth or young manhood. The executives of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company were already inspired by the ideals and humanism of Lincoln. The name of the company grew out of an affirmation of Lincoln’s stature. Robert Lincoln’s letter authorizing the use of his father’s name is possibly the company’s most prized possession.

In 1928 the officers of the company had already started to plan for a Lincoln memorial — the first in Indiana and the first portrayal of Lincoln as a Hoosier. They felt that enough bearded, grave, double-breasted-frock-coat representations existed. Lincoln National would opt for a new vision: a youthful Indiana Lincoln. A full-grown but smooth-cheeked young man. A dreamer. A man with his destiny in his face and his surroundings.

Lincoln National contacted Paul Manship. Manship at 42 had won nearly every American prize for sculpture as well as the Prix de Rome, a three-year scholarship to study at the American Academy in Rome. The clarity of his vision and the strong, clean lines of his sculptures recommended Manship for the Lincoln statue. No pictures of Lincoln before he was 37 exist, so an imaginative creation was needed; for this, too, Manship was well qualified. With Louis A. Warren, Director of The Lincoln National Life Foundation, Manship traveled to the places where Lincoln spent his youth. The sculptor wrote Mr. Mead: “The Ohio River and reminders of the old ferry-

BEGINNINGS — On the opposite page is the original sketch Manship drew in 1929. The sculptor submitted this sketch for approval; the officers of Lincoln National were enthusiastic, and work continued.

boat days and the glimpse of the Kentucky homestead of Lincoln's childhood excited the imagination. Sandburg's book and talks with Ida Tarbell vivified my impressions which led to the desire to represent the youth as a dreamer and a poet, rather than the material aspect of the railsplitter, as the qualities of the spirit are more important in view of the greatness of later accomplishment and the influence of the accomplishment of the great which continues after death. Without these qualities of spirit, the idealism and clarity of his future visions would never have been possible."

By this time the statue was taking shape in more than the mind's eye. After the trip, Manship read, studied, sketched in his Paris and New York studios. Ideas for attitude, composition, and inscription came thick and fast. Manship wrote: "The stories of his youthful physical prowess and his active backwoods life gave him a magnificent physique. His ax tells the story of his rail splitter days. The book symbolizes his intellectual faculties. We know of his friendship for animals, but here his relationship to the dog would symbolize rather a greater feeling of human sympathy and protectiveness which were among his conspicuous characteristics." In addition, the oak stump and the homemade clothes emphasize Lincoln's pioneer upbringing. On the base of the statue four medallions symbolize the classical qualities that grew out of that upbringing: patriotism, justice, fortitude and charity.





PROGRESS — The dog Manship used as a model was a pure American hound he located on his trip through Lincoln country. The dog of the statue stands four feet nine inches in height; from nose to tail measures seven feet two inches. Here Manship works on the contour of the hound's throat.

TAKING SHAPE — A sculptor's work involves climbing and balancing himself as he works on the statue. This full-size plaster model was sent to Brussels, Belgium, where it was cast in bronze under Manship's direction.



BEGINNING AGAIN — Contemporary artist George Yostel, at right, works on the new Hoosier Youth statue, a limited edition of fine art reproductions. At his studio in Cincinnati Yostel formed a clay model used for the casting.

Then came models of the statue (the hound Manship used had been brought from across the Ohio River), approval and casting. During all this time newspapers all over the United States reported on Manship's progress and published pictures of the sculptor at work. The new statue touched the imaginations of Lincoln students and historians. Lincoln National excitedly prepared for the dedication.

The time required from Manship's commission to dedication ceremonies was four years and four months. On September 16, 1932, the years of waiting came to a close. The day was a big one for Ft. Wayne. A special train came from Chicago to carry visitors to the dedication. Crowd estimates range from 4,000 to 10,000 people. Public officials, business executives, recognized historians, Lincoln students, the governor, a senator. The Secretary of Agriculture, Arthur M. Hyde, was the main speaker. Ida Tarbell, one of the foremost Lincoln biographers, called the statue, "the truest, as it is the most beautiful concept of Abraham Lincoln, as a youth, yet given to the country." NBC broadcast the ceremonies over its 48 stations. The Foundation's files on the event contain tens of articles from magazines and newspapers written about the dedication.

What is the statue The Hoosier Youth? It is an evidence of much love for Abraham Lincoln in the company that bears his name. It is a work of art, in a setting designed for it, by a



TODAY'S HOOSIER YOUTH — The nine-inch Lincoln statue exhibits the same classical lines and strength of character as the Manship statue. The work of art thus becomes accessible to more people than Fort Wayne residents and visitors to the Lincoln National Home Office.

world-famous sculptor. It is the first of its kind — a Lincoln statue from that great man's youth. It is, most of all, a national monument to an important and revered President of the United States.

The statue means all of this. In 1971 Lincoln National is as proud of the Manship statue as we were in 1932. We've therefore commissioned a smaller version of the statue to be cast. George F. Yostel, whose sculpture in bronze and stone appears in all parts of the country, formed a clay model from which the bronze statue was cast. A limited number of nine-inch Hoosier Youth statues will be gifts to outstanding agents and friends of the company. In a limited edition, the mold is broken as the last bronze figure is cast; no more of the smaller statues can be made. These are not commercial souvenirs; they are works of art in their own right, as are fine reproductions of other famous artists.

We know that, as for us, these statues will carry the significance of the heroic size statue into the lives of those who come to own them.



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